



March 24, 2020

Hello Prayer Partners, our world has been turned upside down because of the Coronavirus. I'm sure you are feeling its affects in your life also. I pray that none of you or your family have come down with it or anything similar. I see on the news that the U.S. government is taking measures never seen in my lifetime to combat it. I have prayed for wisdom for our leaders and this is what is being done. I pray this will all be behind us soon and that much good will have come from it.

As for how the virus is affecting us in Bolivia. Bolivia has 28 confirmed cases of Coronavirus with 0 deaths as of March 23. The whole country is currently in a total quarantine for 15 days until the 4th of April. Sheila and I are fine, we live in the country so we can still work in the garden, but those in the city are locked in their homes. Only one person from the family can leave the house between 5am and noon to buy groceries or go to the pharmacy. An adult can take a family member to the doctor at any time with a vehicle. The shopping can only be done on foot, no private vehicles or taxis or buses can be on the streets. Not even a bicycle can be used! The only vehicles allowed are; emergency vehicles, trucks supplying the markets, people who work in the medical field, someone taking a loved one to the doctor, and trash pick-up. Each State has its own way of dealing with the quarantine breakers. In our State the military and police are arresting people for breaking the rules. 8hrs jail time and/or a \$75 fine. If you are a youth and you break the quarantine, I have seen in the local news that they are arresting them, giving them a military haircut and placing them in military basic training for the day!!! I am certainly glad I am over 60 😊

We are spending our days, studying and catching up on the home projects. We have had to cancel all services in San Lorenzo during this quarantine. We stay in contact with the brethren by WhatsApp via cell phone. I send short devotionals and encouragement via WhatsApp. Streaming the messages here for us is not an option, I have tried to share good teaching videos in the past over these platforms but the people cannot afford or are unwilling to pay the cost of the Megabytes it would consume. Most do not have phone plans, but buy \$1.50 worth of credit here and there when needed.

I feel for the people here, many in our congregation are teachers and the schools closed for a month a week before the quarantine took effect. These teachers will not receive a paycheck during this whole time. Families are hurting and will be hurting even more as this continues.

Before this all came to pass, we did have a wonderful time celebrating Father's Day, on March 19, with a lasagna dinner for the men of the church and their families. The youth and some mothers did a great job in preparing and serving the fathers. We had games and I brought a challenge to everybody from God's Word. Then on our last Sunday we were able to meet, we had the Lord's Supper.

Some of you know I had to travel back to the States. My sisters had informed me that my mom was put on Hospice care and was not expected to live much longer. My mom was the primary care giver of my father, who has dementia. With my mom's condition worsening she could no longer care for my dad, so he had to be moved to another care facility that specialized in Alzheimer's care. The move and the situation of my mother was a difficult one, so I returned to help. It was a very difficult time of adjustment for my dad. But the Lord allowed me to spend a lot of time with my dad and my mother. I returned to Bolivia at the end of January and my mother was received in Heaven on March 8. My dad is doing well in his new surroundings. Thank you for your prayers and thank you to those who financially made this trip possible for me, you were a blessing.

Please pray; that we would accept this temporary quarantine as God's plan, we had many other things planned for ministry, but they have been sidelined. Please pray that God would meet the needs of every Believer during this time, that we would learn from this experience, and that we would appreciate the freedom we have to shine for Jesus, when we do have the freedom to roam freely about.

**For His Glory, Matt. 5:16  
Rick & Sheila Ackerman**